

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to properly reference the provisional application. Since this amendment was not filed within sixteen months from the filing date of the provisional application, i.e., June 8, 2002, the priority claim was not timely made under 37 CFR § 1.78.

Nevertheless, Applicants petition that this priority claim be accepted as it was unintentionally delayed. Through unintentional error, Applicants informed the PTO of the priority claim, though not in the form required by § 1.78. Indeed, the PTO recognized the Applicants' priority claim as evidenced in the attached filing receipt. Applicants' attorney discovered this error on June 21, 2002, and filed this preliminary amendment soon thereafter. Accordingly, the entire delay between the date the priority claim was due (June 8, 2002) and the present date was unintentional.

The petition is accompanied with the petition fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(t) (\$1,280.00). In addition, the Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any other fees due in processing this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2548.

In view of the foregoing, all the claims are patentable and the application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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